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HOLYOKE the Sun

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Holiday hours announced for Holyoke Mall

HOLYOKE – The 2020 holiday season is already shaping up to be a year like no other, which is why Holyoke Mall is announcing new hours and initiatives to make this holiday season safe, magical and memorable for everyone.

HOLIDAY, 8

Melton industry presentation

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke History Room will present The Newton Brothers: Building Industrial Holyoke 1862-1899, a virtual talk with Will Melton, on Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 4 p.m.

HISTORY, 11



Veterans ceremony will be virtual

HOLYOKE – The United Veterans of Holyoke and Veterans' Services in cooperation with Holyoke Media will stream a Veterans Day program Wednesday, November 11, 10:30 AM. Special highlights will include the awarding of Public Safety of the Year, Citizen of the Year and Veteran of the Year.

Master of Ceremonies for this event will be Chris Sims of the War Memorial Commission. The general public can tune in to the broadcast via United Veterans of Holyoke Facebook page. For more information, please contact United Veterans of Holyoke at 1-413-322-5631.

City turns out for Biden, Velis



There were signs set up to keep voters six feet apart, and hand sanitizer was offered at every step. Voters checked in with Dominic Florence before continuing to sign in. Officer Whelihan was present to help people attending the polls.
Photos by Shelby Macri

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The Democratic-leaning city of Holyoke overwhelming supported presidential candidate Joe Biden, a Democratic former vice president from Delaware on Tuesday's election.

City Clerk Brenna Murphy McGee released unofficial numbers on Wednesday morning. City voters, who participated in all three forms of voting, early, mail, and in-person

on Election Day, supported Democratic candidates on the ballot.

The city was also in line with how the state voted on the two ballot questions.

But the most local race was actually uncontested, with Patricia Duffy, a Democrat, being elected as the new state representative for the Fifth Hampden District. She will succeed five-term representative Aaron Vega to represent Holyoke in the state house. Duffy was Vega's legislative aide most recently.

Duffy received 12,960 votes.

There was a race for Register of Probate won by Rosemary Saccomani, an employee of the office. Saccomani, a Democrat, defeated Independent Lori Landers-Carvalho. Saccomani received 9,250 votes in Holyoke with her opponent garnering only 3,852.

In the state senate race, John Velis easily cruised to a victory in his rematch with Southwick's John Cain. In Holyoke, Velis received 11,073

votes to just 4,073 for Cain.

In the presidential race, Joe Biden received 11,013 votes to 4,804 for incumbent Republican President Donald Trump.

Question 1, which expanded the right-to-repair laws in Massachusetts, passed in the state. Holyoke went along with the affirmative with 11,110 votes to 4,170 people voting no on the question.

Question 2 sought to introduce ranked-choice voting.

See VOTE, page 11

Systemic problems behind Soldiers' Home tragedy

Staff testifies
to poor conditions,
understaffing

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The Soldiers' Home in Holyoke became a house of horrors this past spring only after years of warnings and complaints were ignored. On Oct. 27 and 29, current and former Soldiers' Home staff members testified before a Special Joint Oversight Committee comprised of state senators and representatives.

A disastrous combination of neglect, mismanagement and arrogance resulted in the deaths of 76 veterans who resided at the facility, according to staff. The tragedy resulted from an outbreak of COVID-19 that spread through the building like wildfire, sickening 94 additional living residents and 81 employees.

"They're people that I used to talk to; people that I spent time with and people I looked at as family. To see them going down with no support and no family

See SOLDIERS, page 11

Schools remain in remote learning

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The halls are largely still empty in the Holyoke Public Schools. Holyoke schools are continuing remote learning, the buildings are still in use for staff members, custodian members, and some students. Principal Stephen Mahoney looks after both North campus and Dean campus.

Mahoney explained that there are some students attending north campus, including those who are learning English and those who need in person assis-

tance. While on dean campus grade 10 to 12 are attending the campus one day a week to attend their shop class. The remote learning happens every other day due to class sizes and workloads, including the amount of screen time that is required.

Ninth grade students on coming into the building on Friday's to explore different shops as they were in their first phase of exploratory, where they go to different shops to find the right fit. Currently they are in phase two and have picked their

See REMOTE, page 6

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TITANS TOGETHER

Our community supports one another, whether from across the room or across the globe.

Join us for our

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

to learn about our programs, enjoy virtual classroom experiences and take a virtual campus tour!



Spring 2019 photo



MIDDLE SCHOOL - NOV. 16 - 6 PM • UPPER SCHOOL - NOV. 17 - 6 PM
WWW.WMA.US/OPENHOUSE

Virtual program to tell story of Sarah Margu, a child of the Amistad

HOLYOKE – On Thursday, Nov. 5 at 6:30 p.m., Wistariahurst will host Sarah Margu - A Child of the Amistad, a live, online program presented by Tammy Denease. This program is free and open to all. Advance registration is required.

One of four children held captive on the schooner Amistad, Sarah Margu would miss the rite of passage (Sande Society) into adulthood in her native Mendeland (now Sierre Leone). After gaining freedom through a victory in the United States legal system, Margu would go on to become the first African to graduate from college in America (Oberlin College, Ohio). Life in a strange country causes Margu to become westernized, refusing to live according to the custom of her homeland. Share with Tammy Denease this poignant voyage from childhood denial to adult autonomy.

This program is open to all members of the public, but has been specially designed to address the needs of area seniors, many of whom continue to be socially isolated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is supported through a Community Development Block Grant - COVID-19 Grant to address, prevent, and respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic that is administered through the Holyoke Office of Community Development and has been planned in consultation with the Holyoke Council on Aging. Additional support has been provided through NEH CARES Act funding granted by Mass Humanities.

To register for Sarah Margu - A Child of the Amistad or any future programs, please visit www.Wistariahurst.org or contact Eileen Maginnis at the Holyoke Council on Aging at maginnise@holyoke.org.

Future virtual programs will focus on a diverse range of historical and cultural topics including programs on nature, art, history, travel, and social justice. Upcoming presentations are set to include the natural history of the Pioneer Valley, the labor movement and women's organizing in local factories, and the history of Holyoke's St. Patrick's Day Parade.



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Wilson to lecture on transformative justice

HOLYOKE – On Thursday, Nov. 12 at 6:30 p.m., Wistariahurst will host From Crime Reform to Defunding Punishment: Responding to the Challenges of Restorative and Transformative Justice Movements in Western Massachusetts, a live, virtual program presented by Dr. Lucas Wilson. This program is free and open to all, but pre-registration is required.

Law and order solutions to harm and crime have only succeeded in assigning blame, eroding bonds of community, and narrowing networks of accountability. After almost 50 years of increasing policing and punishment, we have only deepened the fractures and silos that, while conducive to the economic needs of neo-liberal capitalism, further threaten our

social democracy. Restorative justice and transformative justice are two movements in recent years that reimagine community and solidarity networks in social and economic life. Aimed at harm reduction and cessation, these movements challenge us to confront new and radical ethical demands of accountability and justice for all human beings. This talk offers a reflection in answer to this question: what opportunities does the recent Massachusetts crime reform bill hold for building restorative and transformative justice practices in western Massachusetts?



Dr. Lucas Wilson

This program has been specially designed to address the needs of area seniors, many of whom continue to be socially isolated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is supported through a Community Development Block Grant - COVID-19 Grant to address, prevent, and respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic that is administered through the Holyoke Office of Community Development and has been planned in consultation with the Holyoke Council on Aging. Additional support has been provided through NEH CARES Act funding granted by Mass Humanities.

To register for From Crime Reform to Defunding Punishment or any future programs, please visit www.Wistariahurst.org or contact Eileen Maginnis at the Holyoke Council on Aging at maginnise@holyokeye.org. If you have an idea for a topic you'd like to be considered for a future Wistariahurst session, please contact info@wistariahurst.org.

Future virtual programs will focus on a diverse range of historical and cultural topics including programs on nature, art, history, travel, and social justice. Upcoming presentations are set to include the natural history of the Pioneer Valley, the labor movement and women's organizing in local factories, and the history of Holyoke's St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Disaster loans available for small businesses

ATLANTA, Ga. – The U.S. Small Business Administration announced today that Economic Injury Disaster Loans are available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and private nonprofit organizations in Essex, Middlesex and Worcester counties in Massachusetts as a result of frost occurring May 6 through June 2, 2020.

"These counties are eligible because they are contiguous to one or more primary counties in

New Hampshire. The Small Business Administration recognizes that disasters do not usually stop at county or state lines. For that reason, coun-

ties adjacent to primary counties named in the declaration are included," said Michael Lampton, acting director of SBA's Field Operations Center East.

Under this declaration, the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program is available to eligible farm-related and nonfarm-related entities that suffered financial losses as a direct result of this disaster. Except for aquaculture enterprises, SBA cannot provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers and ranchers.

The loan amount can be up to \$2 million with interest rates of 3 percent for small businesses and 2.75 percent for private nonprofit organizations of all

sizes, with terms up to 30 years. The SBA determines eligibility based on the size of the applicant, type of activity and its financial resources. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition. These working capital loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred. The loans are not intended to replace lost sales or profits.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at DisasterLoan.sba.gov and should apply under SBA declaration # 16676, not for

the COVID-19 incident.

Disaster loan information and application forms may also be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing) or by sending an email to DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov. Loan applications can be downloaded from sba.gov/disaster. Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

Submit completed loan applications to SBA no later than May 17, 2021.

Luncheon set for Nov. 19

AGAWAM – The Women to Watch USA Western Mass Chapter Located in Agawam will be holding their November luncheon on November 19, 2020 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Max's Tavern, Hall of Fame Drive in Springfield. It will be held in the outside tent. members and guests are asked to bring a mask and social distancing will be respected. LaTonia Naylor be the guest speaker for the luncheon.

Ms. Naylor's has served youth and families in Springfield for over two decades as a volunteer and eventually earned a Master's in Nonprofit Management and Philanthropy in order to switch career paths into the nonprofit sector. Ms. Naylor has co-founded two



LaTonia Naylor

nonprofit organizations; (2018) Parent Villages Inc., (2006) VITAL Center, Inc., and advised several non-profit start-ups, she currently serves in the roles of Director of AmeriCorps and adjunct faculty member at Springfield College and adjunct faculty member at Worcester State University.

The November Women to Watch USA Western MA Chapter Luncheon is being sponsored by Danielle Suza of Fairway Mortgage Longmeadow and also Bling Boutique by Ayanna.

There will be great food and awesome networking and resourcing. There will also be raffle items from members businesses.

Duffy thanks city voters

HOLYOKE – Newly-elected State Representative Patricia Duffy issued a statement Wednesday after winning an uncontested race for state representative of the Fifth Hampden District.

She said. "I'm so proud and grateful for the support shown to me by the residents of the city of Holyoke in electing me as the next State Representative for the 5th Hampden District. The legislature is still hard at work this Fall, and we are preparing for a seamless transition from Representative Aaron Vega to myself, which will culminate on Wednesday, Jan. 6 with my



Patricia Duffy

swearing-in.

"In the coming weeks, I plan to reach out to a number of constituents and stakeholders to discuss what's important to them and our city so that they can inform my priorities in the coming session: the oversight of the Soldiers Home, working with the public schools, working with my colleagues in caucuses ranging from Food Security to Criminal Justice Reform. As has been true for the past seven years, I am available and eager to be in touch and look forward to serving Holyoke to my greatest capacity."

Santa will appear at Holyoke Mall

HOLYOKE – He's making a list and covering his face, and in addition, this year, he's taking steps to keep everyone safe... Santa Claus IS coming to town! Holyoke Mall has taken the liberty to alter the lyrics of the famous Christmas jingle to announce Santa's return in 2020. In coordination with Cherry Hill Programs, the industry-leader in experiential holiday photography experiences, Santa is scheduled to arrive at Holyoke Mall on Black Friday, November 27th, 2020.

There will be plenty of fun and magic, as well as a focus on the health and well-being of everyone. Guests are encouraged to plan their visit with Santa ahead of time and review the safety measures being taken based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention online at www.WhereIsSanta.com or www.cherryhillprograms.com/CovidGuidelines.

Reservations are strongly encouraged with walk-up visits available as space allows throughout the day. Best practices will be followed: maintaining social distance, face masks required for

everyone and enhanced cleaning between visits.

"It's important to keep as much of the beloved holiday tradition alive, now, more than ever," said Holyoke Mall Director of Marketing, Lisa Wray. "We could all use a dose of Santa's merry disposition, but we also have to evolve with the times and do it safely. We've been strategizing with Cherry Hill to accomplish that goal."

"Ho, ho, ho! I'm looking forward to seeing all of the good boys and girls in Western Massachusetts this year," said Claus. "I know this will be a very different season for us all, but it will be a very special one because we all get to keep the magic of the season alive in a way that's safe and memorable for everyone!"

A full schedule of events regarding Santa's special appearances will be released in early November.

For more information about the Holyoke Mall/Pyramid Management Group protocols, click here: <https://www.holyokemall.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2020/10/2020-10-28-Holyoke-Healthy-Shopper-Guidelines.pdf>

Baystate offers COVID-19 testing

SPRINGFIELD – In an effort to offer additional COVID-19 testing where needed in the community, Baystate Health is collaborating with the commonwealth of Massachusetts to expand COVID-19 testing in the region via the commonwealth's Stop the Spread program.

Expanded testing is now being offered on Wednesday and Thursday at 298 Carew St. in Springfield from 1 to 4 p.m., and continues until Thursday, Oct. 29. Testing is open to anyone from Massachusetts.

An appointment must be scheduled by calling 413-794-0012 only between 5 to 8 p.m. from Monday through Friday. Up to 150 appointments will

be scheduled each Wednesday and Thursday.

The event is part of the state's Stop the Spread program, where the commonwealth is launching strategic testing in communities across Massachusetts that have continued to see a higher number of residents testing positive for COVID-19.

The testing is offered at no cost and no physician referral is needed to be tested. Results will be available within 48 hours.

Free masks, a packet of 10 per family, will be handed out.

For more information on Baystate Health services, visit www.baystate-health.org.

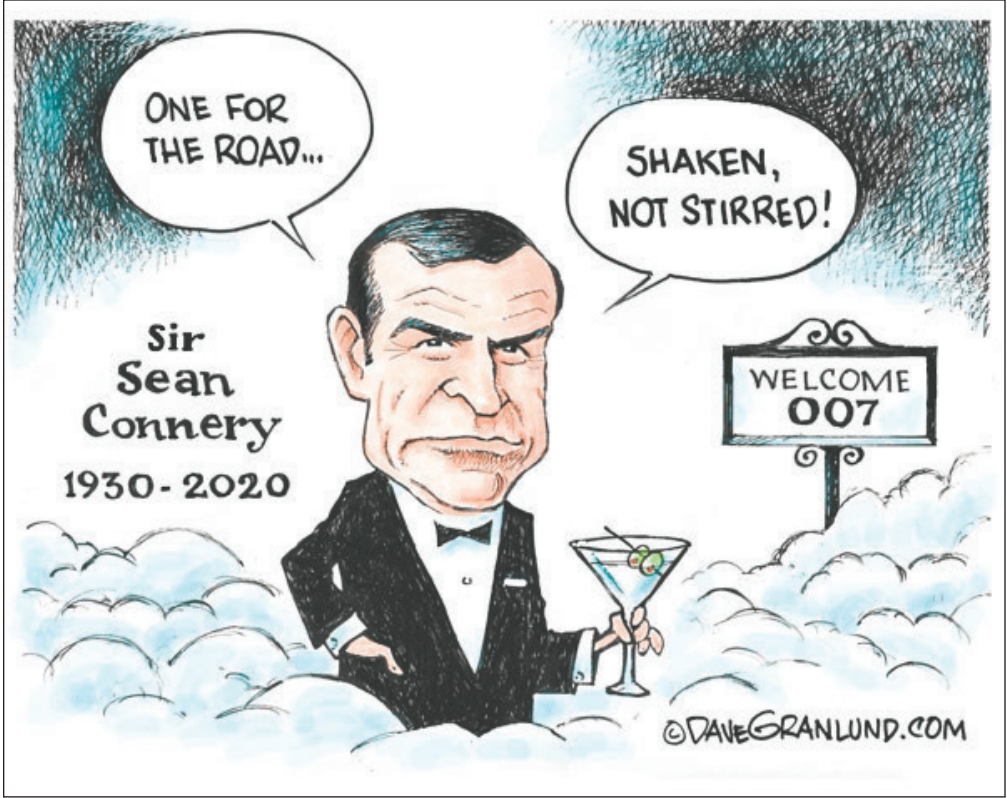
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Poetry Corner

Don't Let Anyone Define You

By Thomas J. Kennedy

*I love life
Do we all get . . .
What we expect
More important – what we accept
Now what do you reject
But remember:
Always respect
Now who in God's eyes is suspect.
Be the best in all things and relationships
"The Best You Can Be" and you will be free*



Guest Column

Can I get Social Security with my municipal pension?

By Russell Gloor

Dear Rusty: I retired from a municipal Fire Department seven years ago at the age of 54. It is a private pension, and I was exempt from Social Security while I was working. I receive about \$50,000 per year in pension benefits. I recently got a letter from Social Security saying I needed eight more credits of work to qualify for Social Security benefits. I was wondering if I worked two more years, paying into Social Security, would I qualify for benefits, since I am on a municipal pension? Signed: Retired Fireman

Dear Retired Fireman: Although your municipal Fire Department pension would reduce your Social Security benefit, it will not eliminate it. So, if you work and earn those additional eight credits you will be entitled to a Social Security benefit.

Because of your non-covered municipal pension your Social Security benefit will be affected by the Windfall Elimination

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Provision, which affects anyone who has a pension from an employer which did not participate in Social Security where neither the employee nor the employer paid into Social Security. WEP uses a special benefit computation formula which will result in you getting a smaller benefit, but you will, nevertheless, get some benefit amount if you have accumulated at least 40 quarters of Social Security credit. Note that your Social Security benefit amount will be further reduced if you claim it at age 62, or any age prior to your full retirement age.

You earn Social Security credits by working in a job where you pay FICA payroll taxes on your earnings, and you can earn a maximum of four Social Security credits per year. For 2020, you'll earn one credit for each \$1,410 of earnings, up to a maximum of four credits for the year, but you don't need to work the entire year to get the credits. For example, if you work yet in 2020 and earn \$5,640, which is four times \$1,410, you'll earn the maximum four credits for this year.

You need a total of 40 quarter credits to become eligible for Social Security, and those credits never expire, so even old credits earned before your Fire Department career still count. And, even if small, this would be a benefit you have earned by contributing to Social Security, so there's little reason not to pursue it by gaining the needed additional credits.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

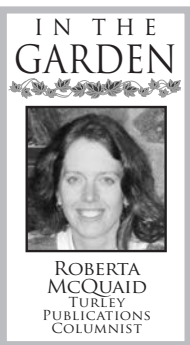
An iconic song and an iconic tree commemorate Veterans Day

As we move closer to Veterans Day, our thoughts turn to the many men and women who serve or have served our country, and how we can best remember and support them. I think back to when I was a young adult and a mother from town tied yellow ribbons all over Ware to support her son who was serving overseas. I also remember the fad of those little yellow magnetic ribbons that folks put on their bumper as a show of solidarity. Did you ever wonder where "tie a yellow ribbon" came from? Read on to learn a bit of trivia about an iconic song and an iconic tree.

We've all heard the 70s song, sung by Tony Orlando and Dawn that popularized the yellow ribbon and made it the folk symbol that it is today. Legend has it that the inspiration for the song did come from a convict, released from prison and on a long bus ride home. His wife was instructed to tie a yellow ribbon around the oak tree in the center of town if she wished to give him a second chance. If he saw it then he knew to get off the bus. Reportedly the tree was covered in yellow ribbons!

In 1981, eight years after the song's initial release, it rose in popularity once again. The yellow ribbon became a symbol of loyalty and patriotism for the 52 American hostages being held in Iraq. "If you still want me, whoa, tie a yellow ribbon 'round the ole oak tree."

I thought it fitting that the oak tree was



chosen to bear such an important symbol of our culture. It is a tall, stately tree and its wood is stronger and more durable than that of most trees, yet to me it is humble. At the height of foliage season an oak doesn't shout "look at me!" like other trees do. It simply waits for the hoopla put on by the maples to pass, and then it delights us with a subtle beauty that is equally appealing.

Here are some oak tree statistics: There are some 450 species of oak. Some of them are evergreen, holding onto their leaves throughout the winter months. These oaks are located in the more southern, warmer regions of our country. Even though our oaks are deciduous, it takes a long time for them to completely defoliate. Sometimes it is the next season's emerging leaves that finally push the old ones off. This year it took an October snowfall.

Did you know that oaks get struck by lightning more than any other tree? This is likely due to their height, some topping over 80 feet at maturity.

The oak is a member of the beech or Fagaceae family. One unique feature that the oak has and other members of the family do not is that its nut is carried in a cap. The nut and cap together are called an acorn. Acorns are a valuable food source for wildlife. Wild turkey, deer, larger songbirds and squirrels among others depend on the nut for surviving the winter. One way to tell the difference between species of oak tree is by their acorns.

Examine how they wear their "cap." The cap of the white oak is about one-quarter the size of the oblong shaped nut. The red oak, on the other hand, has a squatty, saucer-like cap covering a more globose shaped nut.

Most oaks tolerate transplanting the best when they are young and small in size. The pin oak is one exception; its shallow, fibrous root system allows it to be transplanted as a larger specimen. For this reason, the pin oak is widely used for home landscaping. It is also highly sought after because of its unique, pyramidal shape: the lowest branches are pendulous, the middle are horizontal and the top are upright.

Did you know that cork is harvested from the bark of a species of oak tree? Yes, the cork oak grows in Spain, Portugal and parts of Northern Africa.

The oak tree can grow to be very old. At the writing of my reference book back in 1983, there was a 400-year-old white oak growing in Maryland by the name of the Wye Oak. It topped off at 95 feet tall, 165 feet wide and eight feet in diameter.

This Veteran's Day, why not tie a yellow ribbon 'round your oak tree or better yet, thank a veteran for his or her service.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

the **Sun** HOLYOKE

The Sun is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

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A Quote

OF NOTE

"It always seems impossible until it's done."

Nelson Mandela

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to The Sun, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

Community environmental groups request halt to pipeline

AGAWAM – On Tuesday, October 27, 2020, the Columbia Gas Resistance Campaign delivered an open letter to Eversource CEO James Judge signed by 92 community organizations and 12 state and local politicians. The letter with the list of signatories is attached.

The signatories welcome Eversource to Western Massachusetts as successor to Columbia Gas and requests a meeting to discuss transitioning from fossil fuels toward energy conservation and non-combustible clean energy sources. The letter states, “If Eversource is, in fact, committed to implementing the policy conveyed in its public document, Commitment to Clean Energy & Carbon Neutrality, by 2030, the company needs to begin reducing natural gas distribution services provided by NStar and actively pursue non-combustible clean options like geothermal district heating and electric pump technologies.”

The letter also notes the dangers posed by gas fuel, from the Merrimack Valley explosions to the greenhouse gases emitted by burning natural gas to the methane escaping from leaky pipes, planned and unplanned releases, and ear-splitting “blowdowns”— all of which

have a devastating impact on climate change and global warming. Leaked and burned gas both contribute to the toxic soup in the air in Springfield, twice named the “asthma capital of the country”. It notes as well the extraordinary financial cost – inevitably passed on to ratepayers – of unwarranted gas infrastructure expansion, and that data has yet to be presented to justify the expense of the pipeline infrastructure expansion proposed by the Columbia Gas “Reliability” Plan.

Given these realities the writers request that Eversource abandon pipeline expansion plans in Western Massachusetts, including the proposed Longmeadow Supply Strategy Project; the construction of a 16” backbone main high-pressure (200 psi) pipeline running from a meter station to be built in Longmeadow and up into Forest Park, passing through a densely-settled environmental justice neighborhood in Springfield’s South End.

Finally, the letter advises that members of the Columbia Gas Resistance Campaign will be contacting CEO James Judge to schedule a meeting to discuss these issues and Eversource’s plans to move forward with its Commitment to Clean Energy & Carbon Neutrality.



Residents are still continuing to fight a gas pipeline expansion.

Submitted photos



Residents in Agawam and surrounding communities have filed lawsuits and other actions to try and slow the process.

City waiving license renewal fees in all COVID-affected categories

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke has adopted a policy of waiving license renewal fees for activities that have been, and will likely continue to be, affected by the COVID pandemic. Specifically, those license categories are:

Entertainment, Common Victualler,

Automatic Amusement Devices, Club All Alcohol, Restaurant All Alcohol, Restaurant Wine/Malt, Veteran’s Club All Alcohol, Hotel/Innkeeper All Alcohol, Hotel/Innkeeper Wine/Malt, General On-Premises All Alcohol, General On-Premises Wine/Malt.

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REMOTE, from page 1

top shops, they will visit each one until they decided what they will study in the future.

The staff at both schools have improved since the end of the last school year, now teachers are teaching from their classrooms, requiring four hours or more for on camera screen time, holding students accountable for attendance, and developing certain skills to help with online learning and teaching. Mahoney explains that teachers use Google classroom for academic learning, and Zoom for meetings.

“We’ve added a squad class on the days in-between class days, it’s an online place were kids can go to meet up for work, and they can connect with teach-

ers if they need help or have questions.” Mahoney said. “Teachers are helping kids with self-care during this time, and they offer one on one time if a student needs it. We’re more accountable and we’re more academically supported to have kids do well.”

Mahoney mentions that it takes a certain skill set to switch between online platforms, as well as toggling between online classes and checking in with students. Even with these obvious hurdles the teachers have adapted, and staff is following the school schedule and curriculum as best and as close as they can. Mahoney shared that this way of schooling has allowed him and the staff to look into an A/B week were one week the students would do shop, and the next week would be academic. He explains that other trades schools do this way of

learning, and they have the opportunity to see what that would look like for dean campus.

Though the schools had sports for a short time, they were unable to continue when the City was recently announced to be in its third consecutive week of red, the schools sports shut down two weeks ago. Mahoney explained that they had a Senior Day for those teams that started the season, but they couldn’t do much else for the season.

“It was a hard decision to make but we made it,” Mahoney said. “Our Superintendent and the Board of Health were working closely together and this was the right call to make. We hope for a winter or spring season.”

Mahoney said that he and the staff are trying to stay connected with students and families as best they can

during this time. He and the staff are working to give kids the option and ability for success after high school.

“I don’t think people can understand how much and how hard teachers and students are working.” Mahoney said. “Especially teachers, as they’re adapting teaching plans, and learning new skills. They deserve all kinds of thanks and praise.”

The high schools follow the same custodial schedule of daily cleaning and disinfecting of the building, including high tough points, with Wednesday being a deep clean day. This is the cleaning schedule for all schools as there are people in each building, and the city is trying to keep the number of outbreaks contained. Though the school year isn’t a typical one, the staff is working to help students learn anyway they can.



The Core Estate Plan

PRESENTED BY ATTORNEY KAREN JACKSON
Wednesday, November 11 • 1:30 - 2:30 pm
OR Thursday, November 12 • 1:30 - 2:30 pm

Join us for a free presentation and gain a better understanding of each document in the basic estate plan. This event will be held inside our COVID-19-free community, following all social distancing guidelines. Attendees will receive a gourmet boxed lunch to go.

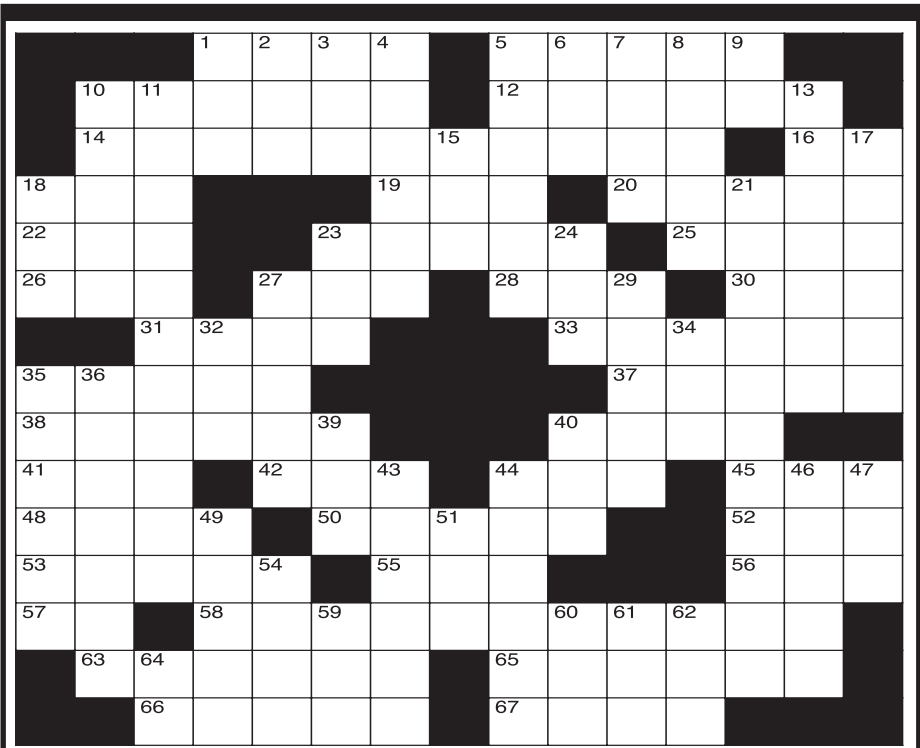


Attorney Jackson will explain the importance of each document in the basic estate plan: the Will, Health Care Proxy, Advance Directive, HIPAA Release, Durable Power of Attorney and Homestead. As she goes through each document, she invites questions and gives examples of real situations of what went wrong when these documents were not in place. Attorney Jackson will also provide numerous practical tips, such as when, and when not, to add children to bank accounts.

An RSVP is required to attend this event as space is limited. Call Stephanie at 413-538-7551 by November 6th.

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- CLUES ACROSS**

 - 1. Upright post on a boat
 - 5. Sentimental person
 - 10. Native American tribe
 - 12. Wear away
 - 14. Where you're going
 - 16. Doctor
 - 18. Popular Chinese dialect
 - 19. One point east of due south
 - 20. Northern sea duck
 - 22. Note
 - 23. Wives (law)
 - 25. Trigonometric function
 - 26. A way to communicate (abbr.)
 - 27. Swiss river
 - 28. No (Scottish)
 - 30. Commercials
 - 31. Large instrument
 - 33. ___ Chantilly, ___ de Menthe
 - 35. Small, saclike cavities
- CLUES DOWN**

 - 1. More (Spanish)
 - 2. A subdivision of a play
 - 3. Japanese title
 - 4. More jittery
 - 5. Fabric
 - 6. Luke's mentor ___ - Wan
 - 7. Cleaving tool
 - 8. Ancient city of Egypt
 - 9. 36 inches
 - 10. Farewell
 - 11. Second to last
 - 13. Improved by critical editing
 - 15. Defensive weapon (abbr.)
 - 17. Fancy attire
 - 18. ___ Farrow, actress
 - 21. Completely opposed
 - 23. Supervises flying
 - 24. Pouch
 - 27. True firs
 - 29. Mistake
- 32. Computing platform (abbr.)
 - 34. Snakelike fish
 - 35. Greatly horrify
 - 36. Despicable person
 - 39. Tell on
 - 40. Ballplayer's tool
 - 43. Central Brazilian town
 - 44. Court game
 - 46. Land
 - 47. "The Partridge Family" actress Susan
 - 49. Retract a statement
 - 51. Data executive
 - 54. Capital of Yemen
 - 59. Portable computer screen material
 - 60. Electronic data processing
 - 61. "Matt Houston" actor Horsley
 - 62. Resinous substance
 - 64. Rural delivery

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN PORK LOIN RIBEND or LOIN END ROAST **\$1.59** lb

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SLICED IN OUR DELI

USDA INSP. CORNED BEEF..... **\$4.99** lb

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USDA INSP. STORE MADE ITALIAN MARINATED 1/2 CHICKENS **\$1.49** lb

USDA INSP. 2 LB BOX KAYEM HOT DOGS..... **\$6.99** ea

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF STRIPLOIN STEAKS **\$4.94** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST or STEAKS **\$4.44** lb

USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF **\$3.07** lb

CUSTOMER PICK OF THE WEEK USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN PORK BUTTS..... **\$1.39** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN THIGH **79¢** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH WHOLE CHICKEN **88¢** lb

USDA INSP. IQF FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN TENDERLOINS.. **97¢** lb

USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN SALAD SHRIMP COOKED PEELED, TAIL OFF **2/\$3**

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More 'red' communities as fall season winds down

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION — More communities in Western Massachusetts have gone “into the red” during the past week thanks to what government officials are describing as increase in gatherings where people are not observing proper safety protocols.

The actions have filtered down to high school sports as some communities in the red are forced to postpone or cancel action.

Holyoke has fully canceled the remainder of its fall sports season after spending three consecutive weeks labeled as “high-risk” for COVID-19 spreading. Holyoke was in the red for the fourth time last Thursday.

Joining Holyoke, however, are a whole host of communities in the region. Last Thursday, it was revealed Agawam, Westfield, West Springfield, Granby, and Palmer had joined Holyoke with the designation. Chicopee remained in the red for a second straight week. Monson was red last week, and managed to move down a category to the yellow, moderate risk, designation.

Per the results of the latest numbers, Granby and Palmer have temporarily ceased operations for at least a week, and two in the case Granby.

Athletic Director Alison Jordan said Granby will not be able to play high school sports for at least two weeks. Granby fit in a pair of soccer games with South Hadley last Wednesday afternoon

prior to the state numbers coming out. Because of daily COVID-19 test numbers coming in, Granby town officials were aware of the fact the town would soon be labeled high-risk. This is the second time Granby is in the red. It happened prior to the high school season in early September, but only lasted for one week.

Due to local protocols, sports had to be shut down. The same is true in Palmer, where games are postponed through at least Thursday, Nov. 5. Games Friday are still on the schedule in hopes Palmer gets out of the high-risk designation when new numbers are released on Thursday. However, Pathfinder Regional remains playing this week. Pathfinder, which has students in numerous communities in the surrounding area, is located in Palmer.

Agawam, Westfield, and Chicopee continue to play sports despite their high-risk designation.

However, in the case of Chicopee, if the city continues in the red this Thursday, both Chicopee and Chicopee Comprehensive could be forced to shut down their sports at least temporarily.

Agawam remains playing into this week, though their schedule is set to wind down in the next week or so with the final week and a half remaining for makeup games.

The fall season is set to conclude on Nov. 20. There are no postseason tournaments planned, including any league tournament through the PVIAC as of press time.

KNIGHTS LOSE FINAL MATCH



Prior to sports being called off in Holyoke due to high-risk status in the city, Holyoke girls volleyball fell to Agawam 3-1 on Wednesday, Oct. 21. Alysha Izquierdo socks a spike over a blocker. Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Karyna Gaston Feliciano keeps the ball in play for Holyoke.



Adriana Vazquez Pena serves for the Knights.



Niurka Rivera Davila sets the ball.



Erin Gauthier sends a hit from the back line.

Racing will return to Thompson Speedway in 2021



Thompson Speedway has announced the 2021 modified series.

Submitted photos

THOMPSON, Conn. — The high banks of Connecticut's Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park will roar once again in 2021. American-Canadian Tour (ACT) and Pro All Stars Series (PASS) have announced a six-event schedule for the coming season that features the new Thompson Outlaw Open Modified Series.

The Outlaw Open Series consists of half a dozen high-paying events for Tour-type Modifieds that are expected to attract the top teams in the region. The series begins at the 46th annual Thompson

Icebreaker from Friday, April 9 to Sunday, April 11. A 150-lap, \$10,000-to-win Outlaw Open Series event will highlight the weekend card.

The stakes get even higher at the season-ending 59th annual Sunoco World Series of Speedway Racing from Friday, October 8 to Sunday, October 10. ACT and PASS have organized the return of the historic Thompson 300, which was last contested in 2005. A \$20,000 minimum prize has been posted for the winner of the 300-lap showdown.

In addition, ACT and

PASS are selling \$50 lap sponsorships for the Thompson 300. All laps that are sold will award the full \$50 to the leader of that lap. This means a driver could earn up to \$35,000 that weekend.

Four other events are scheduled in-between the Icebreaker and World Series. The additional race dates are Wednesday, June 16; Wednesday, July 7; Wednesday, August 11; and Wednesday, September 8. These dates were chosen to minimize con-

See RACING, page 8

Air Force event to occur in ‘Bubbleville’ at Mohegan

UNCASVILLE, Conn. – The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame announced today a revised field of teams and schedule for the 2020 Air Force Reserve Tip-Off Tournament. The annual NCAA men’s exempt tournament sponsored by the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference will now take place Saturday, November 28, Sunday, November 29, Thursday, December 3 and Friday, December 4 at Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Connecticut.

“The Hall of Fame Tip-Off Tournament has been held at Mohegan

Sun Arena for many years with great success. COVID-19 and the uncharted college basketball restart has undoubtedly brought many challenges, but we’re proud to have a partner and venue that provides us the opportunity to host this annual event under a new set of safety protocols,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Basketball Hall of Fame. “We look forward to hosting this year’s field of teams in a bubble-like atmosphere at beautiful Mohegan Sun.”

The Basketball Hall of Fame Tip-Off Tournament is split into two brackets, Naismith and Springfield. The Naismith bracket will play November 28 and 29 and includes University of Rhode Island (Atlantic 10), University of South Florida (American Athletic), Temple University (American Athletic), Virginia Tech (Atlantic Coast). The Springfield bracket will play December 3 and 4 and includes University at Albany (America East), Drexel University (Colonial), Long Island University (Northeast), and Quinnipiac University (Metro Atlantic). Game times and television broadcast details and will be released

at a later date. For more information, please visit www.halloffametiipoff.com.

The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and Gazelle Group are collaborating to produce multiple college basketball games at Mohegan Sun from November 25 through December 5, 2020 and have named the space “Bubbleville.” Bubbleville will house several events relocated and reimagined due to COVID-19 and provides a controlled environment with teams and event staff adhering to tribal, government, and NCAA health and safety protocols and testing requirements.

Help feature your student-athletes here in The Holyoke Sun sports pages

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The fall season is nearing its end and Turley Publications has been all over the action.

But with this unpredictable season there have been temporary or in some cases, permanent stoppages in play, and we still want to help feature your athletes, especially those who are seniors this year.

We continue to ask for help on this

season in order to bring the best coverage we can possibly manage and fill our pages with names and color.

We know that fans will be limited to the home crowds, but that is where you all come in.

We have a limited number of staff to start the school year due to the pandemic, and while we strive to get to as many games as possible, we cannot get to everywhere.

If you are a parent, coach, or even player, and you have information or photographs to share, we definitely want to hear from you.

If you don’t see one of our photographers at a game, please feel free to send your own action photos of games in order to bolster our coverage. If you are interested in regularly submitted photos, please do contact us.

Otherwise, we would love to hear from anyone who reports scores, details, and any milestones that occur during this unprecedented season. Please be sure the information you provide us is accurate and check with coaches, if necessary, before submitting.

Additionally, with the various senior games that have been held already or are still waiting to be held, we welcome submitted photos from those events and information about graduating seniors who participated in Fall 1 sports.

We also encourage all coaches to submit their results and details as much as possible. Send any and all information and photos for inclusion to sports@turley.com.

RACING, from page 8

flict with other tracks and series in the region, allowing teams and fans to attend as many events as they wish.

The Outlaw Open Series features at the Wednesday events will pay at least \$5,000-to-win and potentially more. Furthermore, drivers and teams that attempt to qualify for all six events will be eligible for potential provisional starting spots at the Thompson 300.

“We think the Outlaw Open Modified Series is going to be huge for teams and fans,” ACT managing partner Cris Michaud said. “The open-event model for the Modifieds has gotten a lot of traction in recent years, and we got to see it first-hand at the most recent World Series. We’re especially excited for the return of the Thompsonxf 300. Somebody will be walking away with at least \$20,000 that weekend, and it’s going to take the intensity to a whole

other level.”

Thompson Speedway’s local divisions will also be part of all six events, including the Sunoco Modifieds, Late Models, Limited Sportsmen/Street Stocks, SK Light Modifieds, and Mini Stocks. Although details are still being finalized, ACT and PASS officials hope to organize special events for the local divisions throughout the summer, giving each class a chance in the spotlight.

A variety of touring series and open shows will also be part of the Icebreaker and World Series weekends. More information regarding all events will be announced over the coming weeks.

“The most important part of all of this is that Thompson oval track racing will continue,” PASS owner Tom Mayberry said. “We were very satisfied with how the Thompson 150 and World Series went in 2020, and those events showed the appetite is still there for racing in eastern Connecticut. With those events to build on, we think the excitement for Thompson Speedway is going to be even bigger in 2021.

For more information about the American-Canadian Tour, contact the ACT offices at (802) 244-6963, media@acttour.com, or visit www.acttour.com. You can also get updates on Facebook and Twitter at @ACTTour.

For technical information concerning all PASS divisions, and for media or marketing questions, please contact passracing@roadrunner.com or visit www.proallstarseries.com. Don’t forget to “Like” the Pro All Stars Series on Facebook or follow on Twitter @PASSSLM14 to keep up with breaking news as it happens.

For general Thompson Speedway inquiries, call (860) 923-2280, email oval@thompsons Speedway.com, or visit www.thompsons Speedway.com. You can follow Thompson Speedway on Facebook and Instagram at @ThompsonSpeedway or on Twitter at @ThompsonSpdwy.



Thompson Speedway has announced the 2021 modified series.

Submitted photos

► In The News

HOLIDAY, from page 1

Earlier this year, retail marketing experts accurately predicted that retailers would encourage consumers to start their holiday shopping earlier by extending exclusive deals throughout the season in lieu of the traditional high-trafficked Thanksgiving/Black Friday kickoff. Holyoke Mall’s Marketing Director, Lisa Wray, said many of Holyoke Mall tenants are following the trend.

“We are seeing the early deals and shoppers and are encouraged by many of our tenants’ plans to break up the traditional, one-day-only, Black Friday rush,” said Lisa Wray. “The spreading-out of sales and deep discounts throughout the entire holiday season should help minimize lines and crowds. The deals to be had will be bigger than ever and available earlier than ever.”

“If the challenges of the pandemic have taught us anything, it is the value of time with family. It is our hope that our guests, tenants and on-site staff will be able to spend additional time with their loved ones and re-charge during the most active shopping season of the year.”

Holyoke Mall has been a leader in taking concrete steps to ensure the

safety of guests and employees by following guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the State of Massachusetts and the City of Holyoke. Guests will be greeted with a wide range of safety and sanitizing policies and procedures, all designed to make Holyoke Mall as safe as possible for its employees, tenants and guests. They include:

- Face Mask Requirement: Everyone visiting Holyoke Mall will be required to wear a face mask, covering their mouth and nose, in accordance with Massachusetts State and CDC guidelines. Face masks must be worn while both inside and outside of Holyoke Mall.
- Social Distancing: All guests will be reminded to maintain social distancing and stay 6-feet apart with visual reminders placed throughout the center, along with one-way directional signage to avoid contact with other guests.
- Enhanced Cleaning and Sanitizing: Holyoke Mall has enhanced its cleaning and sanitizing of the common areas and numerous touch points, restrooms, seating areas, and food court. This includes using CDC-recommended disinfectants designated as effective against SARS-CoV-2 virus in accordance with or exceeding CDC sanitation guidelines.
- Proactive Touchless Disinfecting: Holyoke Mall’s cleaning team will be utilizing new electrostatic sprayers, leveraging the same technology used to clean hospital rooms to sanitize its center using an approved disinfectant recommended by the CDC.
- Hand Sanitizer Stations: Hand sanitizer stations will be available at:
 - Digital directories throughout the property
 - Food court areas
 - Throughout the common area
 - Curbside Pickup: In addition to in-store shopping and dining, several restaurants and stores are offering curbside pick-up including 110 Grill, Uno’s Pizzeria & Grill, American Eagle, Hollister, Hot Topic, Target, Macy’s, Best Buy, Sumo Japanese Steakhouse and more. Shoppers are encouraged to contact their favorite retailer to see if curbside is offered.
 - Daily Health Screenings for Holyoke Mall employees, security, housekeeping employees and all contractors.

Masks and social distancing will continue to be required to enter the property and guests are encouraged to follow the center’s Healthy Shopper Guidelines which include:

1. Face masks, covering both mouth and nose, must be worn by everyone while inside or outside of Holyoke Mall.
2. Refrain from touching your nose, mouth and eyes.
3. Keep a safe distance from other people, a minimum of 6 feet.
4. Stay to the right and follow the one-way traffic arrows throughout the property.
5. Wash your hands with soap and warm water frequently and for at least 20 seconds.
6. Use hand sanitizer stations located throughout the property.
7. Avoid standing in lines and keep a safe distance from other people.
8. Avoid touching products you do not intend to purchase.
9. Please assess your health before visiting. Avoid entering this building if you have, or recently have had, symptoms associated with COVID-19: a temperature greater than 100.00°F, cough, body aches, rash, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, etc.
10. Avoid entering our property if you, or anyone you have been in close contact with, has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or been placed in a quarantine for possible contact with COVID-19.

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758**
Docket No. HD20P1859EA
Estate of:
Judith Benoit
Also known as:
Judith Ann Benoit, Judy Benoit
Date of Death: 08/13/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **James Forkey** of Upton, MA and **Tracy Benoit** of Holyoke, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Tracy Benoit** of Holyoke, MA and **James Forkey** of Upton, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/23/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 26, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
11/06/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600**
Docket No. HD20P1756EA
Estate of:
Angela A. Boyle
Also Known As:
Angela Carrigan
Date of Death:
May 12, 2020
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Gary L. Fialky** of Springfield, MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Gary L. Fialky of Springfield, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
11/06/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758**
Docket No. HD20P1903EA
Estate of:
Donald F Collamore
Date of Death: 10/05/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR

FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Edward J Cauley** of Holyoke MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Edward J Cauley** of Holyoke MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/04/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 30, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
11/06/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758**
Docket No. HD20C0186CA
In the matter of:

Jack Payne Cole
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Jack Payne Cole** of Holyoke MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Jacqueline Eleanor Payne Cole

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/24/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 27, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
11/06/2020

**City of Holyoke
536 Dwight Street #15
Holyoke, MA 01040-5078
(413)-322-5650**
Invitation to Bid 2020-027 Elevator Maintenance
The City of Holyoke is seeking sealed bids for elevator maintenance.

Bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, Room 15, Holyoke City Hall, Holyoke, MA 01040 until **2:00 PM December 3, 2020** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.

Documents will be available electronically after 10:00 AM on November 12, 2020 at: Belangerl@holyoke.org.

The City of Holyoke reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids.
11/06/2020

**City of Holyoke
536 Dwight Street #15
Holyoke, MA 01040-5078
(413)-322-5650**
Request for Proposals 2020-026
Urban Forestry Consultant

The City of Holyoke is seeking sealed proposals for a consultant to assist the City with a public tree inventory and an urban forest equity plan.

Bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, Room 15, Holyoke City Hall, Holyoke, MA 01040 until **2:00 PM December 1, 2020** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.

Documents will be available electronically after 10:00 AM on November 9, 2020 at: belangerl@holyoke.org.

The City of Holyoke reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids..
11/06/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD20D0715DR**
Marilyn Merced vs. Manuel Merced
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING

To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown.
The Complaint is on file at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon:

John F Moriarty, Jr., Esq.
480 Hampden St
Holyoke, MA 01040
your answer, if any, on or before **01/04/2021**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 2, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
11/06/2020

**City of Holyoke
536 Dwight Street #15
Holyoke, MA 01040-5078
(413)-322-5650**
Invitation to Bid 2020-028 Integrated Pest Management

The City of Holyoke is seeking sealed bids for pest management for city buildings and schools.

Bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, Room 15, Holyoke City Hall, Holyoke, MA 01040 until **2:00 PM December 3, 2020** at

which time bids will be publicly opened and read.
Documents will be available electronically after 10:00 AM on November 12, 2020 at: belangerl@holyoke.org.
The City of Holyoke reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids.
11/06/2020

**City of Holyoke
536 Dwight Street #15
Holyoke, MA 01040-5078
(413)-322-5650**
Invitation to Bid 2020-018 Plumbing Maintenance
The City of Holyoke is seeking sealed bids for plumbing maintenance.
Bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, Room 15, Holyoke City Hall, Holyoke, MA 01040 until **2:00 PM December 3, 2020** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.
Documents will be available electronically after 10:00 AM on November 12, 2020 at: Belangerl@holyoke.org.

The City of Holyoke reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids.
11/06/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758**
Docket No. HD20C0162CA
In the matter of:
Shaina Michelle Rogstad
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Shaina Michelle Rogstad** of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Shaina Michelle Rogstad Miller Sadai

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/23/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 28, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
11/06/2020

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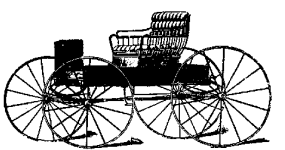
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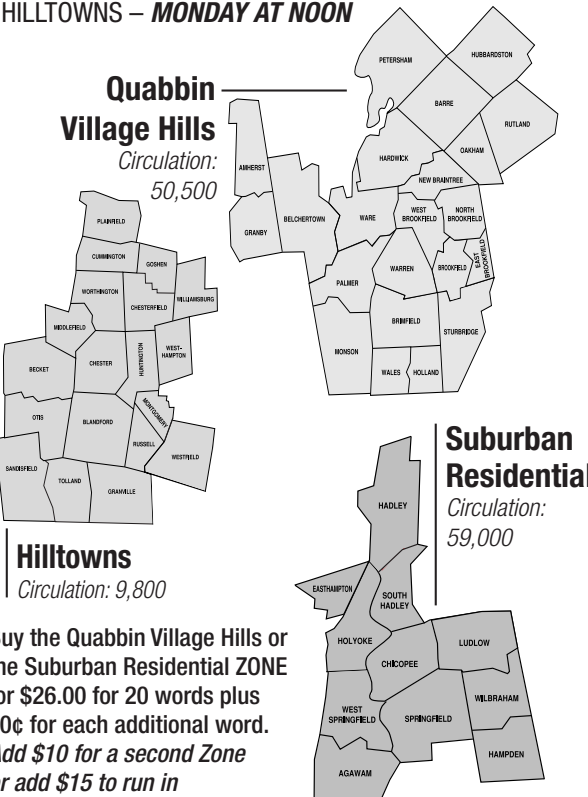
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SOLDIERS, from page 1

to say goodbye to; it's something that I'll remember for the rest of my life," said Certified Nursing Assistant Kwesi Ablordeppey, a 20-year employee at the home.

Ablordeppey recalled moving corpses into a body bag and then into a refrigerated unit placed outside of the home. Just as concerning is the fact that Soldiers' Home staffers were denied personal protective equipment at the onset of the outbreak.

"We didn't have enough PPE on the floor for the staff," said Ablordeppey, noting that it had previously been available but mysteriously vanished when needed most.

When Ablordeppey was able to locate PPE, he was scolded and written up by a superior, who questioned the need to don such equipment in front of the veterans. Ablordeppey waved the write-up from the podium at Holyoke Community College during last Tuesday's hearing.

"I got so angry. I said, 'What is going on here?' They knew that there was something going on and they put the masks away," he said.

CNA Andrea Fox, a longtime representative of the Massachusetts Nursing Association, shared similar stories on behalf of her members. Fox noted that many employees chose not to testify at the hearing after feeling bullied and intimidated by the facility's administration.

Fox revealed that staff members were forced to endure traumatic condi-

tions, working countless hours of overtime as COVID-19 ravaged one of western Massachusetts' finest institutions. She recalled her haunting conversation with Bennett Walsh, the home's former superintendent, who is now facing 10 criminal charges and decades in jail if convicted.

"When COVID was first discovered in the Soldiers' Home, I attended a monthly labor management meeting with the former superintendent," said Fox. "I had to pull teeth to learn that there was a supply of the N95 respiratory masks available. It was our belief that they would provide the most protection for staff and residents. I asked [Walsh] several times, 'What are you saving them for?' He refused to distribute them."

Throughout the hearings staff shared testimony that appeared suitable for a graphic novel. Their stories were far from fictitious, however; employees endured death firsthand on a scale that was unprecedented.

"As healthcare staff, it is expected to have deaths on your watch. However, the magnitude and velocity of deaths was overwhelming," said Fox. "I spoke with a nurse who described her ride in and seeing a huge refrigerated truck at the entrance. Her description and the image of bodies of veterans on carts alone right outside that building made me almost throw up."

Understaffing

Understaffing was, perhaps, the tragedy's greatest driving force. For years, if not decades, employees at the home

lobbied and protested in an admirable but unsuccessful effort to add more colleagues.

Paul Barabani served as superintendent from 2011 until his retirement in 2016. While in his position, Barabani observed the harmful effects of understaffing, as he recalled on Oct. 29.

"There's just not enough time to do it all. It works on them, and that's the morale factor," said Barabani. "I told each employee, 'I want you to be motivated and look forward to coming to work to serve the veterans and go home at the end of each day feeling good that you did serve them,' but they couldn't go home feeling good because there wasn't enough staff to allow that care."

Understaffing was often to blame for pressure ulcers, plaguing veterans who remained in the same position for extended periods of time. Barabani described an administration that often betrayed the trust of employees at the home.

Francisco Urena served as the state's Secretary of Veterans' Affairs from 2015 until resigning on June 24, following his complicity in the mismanagement of the outbreak. Barabani did not mince words when recalling unsatisfactory interactions with Urena.

On one occasion, a Soldiers' Home employee broke down in tears at the end of the work day upon realizing she had not gotten to cutting a veteran's toenails. After consoling his distraught wife, the employee's husband, also a veteran, later contacted Urena's office to inquire about the lack of staffing.

Urena elected not to keep the com-

plaint confidential, instead immediately reporting the employee to the administration at the Soldiers' Home. The following morning, the unknowing female staff member was called to the office and reprimanded for her husband's communication.

Barabani continued last Thursday, testifying further against Urena's lack of concern and consideration regarding understaffing at the home. In November 2018, Barabani arranged a meeting for Soldiers' Home employees to speak to Urena.

"I brought our staff into our conference room and wanted Secretary Urena to hear directly from the staff what their feelings were. He spent more time looking at his phone, texting and not making eye contact; the people who were in that room were insulted and felt that they weren't being listened to," said Barabani.

Barabani's ties to the Holyoke facility run deep. As a child in the 1950s, he often accompanied his parents to the home, where they volunteered in different capacities. Barabani's father, a World War II veteran, would take his last breaths at the home in 2016.

When Barabani considered applying for the open superintendent position in 2010, his father shared advice that Barabani did not take.

"I have to be honest with you; he advised me not to apply for the position. He probably knew more than I did about the real goings on," said Barabani.

The complete hearings from Oct. 20, 22, 27 and 29 can be located at malegislature.gov.

In The News

HISTORY, from page 1

Four sons of a lumber entrepreneur from Greenfield, Massachusetts, played an outsized role in making Holyoke the nation's Paper City after the Civil War. As mill builders, financiers, manufacturers, real estate men, and inventors, the Newtons were rarely far from the action in Holyoke's economic boom. When the first signs appeared in the 1880s that canal-side mill sites and cheap sources of wood pulp for their mills were vanishing, the brothers looked to the Deerfield River valley of southern Vermont. By building a nar-

row gauge railroad into the steep mountain glens, they harvested saw timber and wood pulp to feed their Holyoke paper factories. In his talk, Will Melton will explore the full range of the Newtons' dynamic careers and show how their entrepreneurship intersected with national trends.

Speaker Will Melton of South Hadley is a sometime historian who recently published his father's account of life aboard Liberty ships during World War II. His talk, postponed from an earlier date, draws on Newton family documents and photographs as well as the archives of the Library's History Room. The talk is free, but pre-registration is required.

VOTE, from page 1

Only Maine has ranked-choice voting, which is currently complicating the race for U.S. Senator as of press time.

Massachusetts voters turned down the concept. The vote was a little closer, but Holyoke again went along with the state line. 7,940 voted no while 6,704 voted yes.

McGee reported a great turnout in Holyoke during the early voting phase. Numerous mail-in votes were also sent out and came back in. There were 27,994 registered voters heading into the election. When the polls closed

Tuesday night, 16,277 total votes were cast, a turnout of 58.14 percent of the voting population.

One other unopposed candidate who was official re-elected was U.S. Rep. Richard Neal. In Holyoke, 12,683 voters cast a ballot for the incumbent. Neal was challenged for his seat in the primary by Mayor Alex Morse.

As of press time, the presidential election remains in question with a number of states still counting vote. However, Biden was declared the winner in Massachusetts, a state that has not voted for a Republican since Ronald Reagan in 1984.

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